Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) situation update for December 2008 with a forecast till February, 2009

Summary

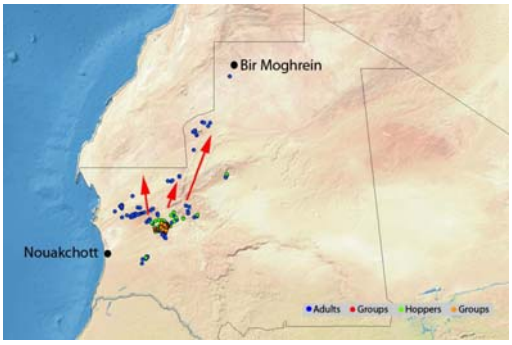
Desert Locust:

Mauritania experienced a surge in locust numbers in early December and the National Locust Control Center treated some 14,000 ha n the northwest part of the country during the month. No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in adjacent areas in southwestern **Morocco** (FAO-DLIS). Surveys were not carried out elsewhere in the region, but some scattered adults may be present in Mali, Niger and Algeria.

Small-scale breeding was reported on the Red Sea coast in **Eritrea** and **Saudi Arabia** and scattered adults were seen on the coast of **Sudan**. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the Central regions as well as the Eastern Region December (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, CNLA/Mauritania, PPD/Addis).

Forecast

Residual populations from Mauritania could possibly move into northern part of the country, southwestern Morocco and western Algeria during the forecast period. Limited breeding is expected along the Red Sea coast in Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and perhaps northwestern Somalia during the forecast period. Some adults may be seen in Baluchistan along the Iran-Pakistan border, but other countries will likely remain calm during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS, AELGA).



(Locust outbreak in northern Mauritania, December 2008; FAO-DLIS)

OFDA/TAG P&P activities:

- OFDA/TAG, DLCO-EA and MinAgri conducted a pre-workshop seminar on pesticide risk reduction in Addis Ababa in December, 2008.

- OFDA/TAG is preparing to launch workshops on **pesticide risk reduction** (PRR) through stewardship network in Ethiopia and Kenya. It concluded a successful PRR workshop in Tanzania in May last year. The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Cooperatives has since recognized Stewardship Network as a national entity and sponsored to improve the pesticide delivery system.

- OFDA is sponsoring capacity strengthening through FAO's EMPRES programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to DL emergencies in the western and the central regions.

- OFDA is sponsoring DLCO-EA to strengthen national and regional capacities for DL emergency and other ETOP operations in Greater Horn of Africa.

- OFDA co-sponsored assessment and project development missions for locust monitoring and operations in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (EECAC).

- OFDA provided seed money to FAO, which helped leverage $1 million from GEF funds and an additional $1.2 million from other sources to develop and implement projects on obsolete pesticide disposal and prevention in EECAC countries.

Other ETOPs

No locusts were reported in Central Asia and the Caucuses in December and significant developments are during the forecast period.

Red Locust: A late received report indicated that low density populations were detected on some 1,900 ha in the outbreak areas in Malawi and Mozambique and in some 9,900 ha in Tanzania but control operations were not necessary in October and November (IRLCO-CSA). Breeding is expected to commence and form hopper bands by mid January 2009 in areas where residual parental populations coincide with rainfalls.

African Armyworm Trap catches have shown the presence of moths in some districts of **Tanzania** in December.

Quelea outbreaks were reported in Meru district in the central region of **Kenya** by the end of December (DLCO-EA).

OFDA/Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) will continue monitoring ETOP situation and issue updates and advise as necessary. End summary

The current and archived SITREPS can be accessed on our website at:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/

Climatological and ecological factors

Precipitation remained insignificant in most of the DL breeding areas with the exception of rains that fell in northwestern Mauritania and along the Red Sea coasts in Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen December. Ecological conditions were relatively favorable in areas of recent rainfall but unfavorable in others. The ITCZ is still south of the equator.

ETOP Situation and Activities

Western Region

Adult locusts and hoppers were controlled on some 14,000 ha in northwestern **Mauritania** in December. No locusts were reported from other countries in the region. Surveys were not carried out elsewhere in the region, but some scattered adults may be present in Mali, Niger and Algeria. (CNLA, FAO-DLIS, OFDA).

Forecast

Residual populations from **Mauritania** could possibly move into northern part of the country, southwestern Morocco

and western Algeria during the forecast period. (OFDA, CNLA, FAO-DLIS).

Central Region

Limited breeding is expected along the Red Sea coast in Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and perhaps northwestern Somalia during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, PPD/Addis).

Eastern Region

Some adults may be seen in Baluchistan along the Iran-Pakistan border, but other countries will likely remain calm during the forecast period (FAO-DLIS, AELGA, PPD/Addis).

OFDA/Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (AELGA) will continue monitoring ETOP situation and issue updates and advise as necessary.

Central Asia and the Caucuses

No ***Italian*** or ***Moroccan*** or Migratory locusts were reported in the CA&C region in December and further developments are not expected during the forecast period.

Note: Three major locusts, ***Italian, Migratory***, and ***Moroccan*** locusts, affect more than 27 million people in CA&C and region.

Red Locust: A late received report indicated that low density (1-6 locusts/m^2) concentrations of red locust were detected on some 1,900 ha in Lake Chilwa plains, Buzi-Gorongosa plain, Dimba plain, Lake Chiuta plains and Mptasanjoka Dambo in Malawi and Mozambique during surveys carried out by IRLCO-CSA in October and November. Concentrations of low density populations were also reported on some 9,900 ha out of more than 80,000 ha that were surveyed in Wembere, North Rukwa, South Rukwa, Iku-Katavi Plains and Malagarasi Basin in Tanzania. Control operations were not required due to low numbers of locusts (IRLCO-CSA).

Forecast: Red Locust is likely to breed successfully in the outbreak areas for hopper bands in the outbreak areas where significant residual parental populations remained at the onset of the rains by mid January 2009.

IRLCO-CSA, in collaboration with MOAFSC, is preparing to launch a large-scale application of a fungal-based biological control, GreenMuscle against red locust hoppers in the Iku plains in Tanzania during mid January 2009. FAO will be sponsoring the spray applications and a training course in locust operations for technicians from Tanzania and Malawi.

The Timors and South Pacific

No new information was received at the time this update was compiled. However, there is a likelihood of **Migratory locust** attacking pasture, maize and/or rice crops in **East Timor**.

Cross-border infestations can affect neighboring if left unabated.

Australia

A large number of swarms of the **Australian Plague Locust** were detected in Riverina and New South Wales (NSW), **Australia** during November and December. Swarms were formed as hoppers fledged in early November in many locations in Riverina. Egg laying that commenced in late November progressed through the start of December. By mid-month over forty egg beds were confirmed. Hatching commenced in late December and will likely continue in January.

Rainfalls in New South Wales and Victoria during December created favourable conditions. As a result, large numbers of hopper bands requiring control will likely form. Swarms began moving south during the second week of December resulting in an increase in adult densities in southern Riverina and adjacent areas. Some swarms have entered Victoria and seen laying in several locations.

Extensive ground control operations were carrried out in NSW by landholders and local government during October–December and the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) controlled swarms in 600 ha in Riverina by air in early December (APLC).

African Armyworm No major armyworm activities were reported at the time this update was compiled, but trap catches in some districts of **Tanzania** have shown the presence of moths in December. It is essential that active surveillance and monitoring are maintained AELGA).

Quelea outbreaks were reported in Meru district in the central region, in **Kenya** by the end of December (DLCO-EA).

FACTS: Quelea birds can travel ~ 100 km/day looking for food. Each bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy approximately the same amount each day. A colony of up to a million birds is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons (= 7,000 – 10,000 kg) of seeds/day.

Front-line countries are advised to remain vigilant. Countries in the outbreak zones should continue to strengthen their capacity to avoid any unexpected surprises. PPDs and DPVs should continue sharing ETOP and

related information with partners and stakeholders as often as necessary.

Pesticide Stocks

Pesticide inventories in front-line and outbreak countries remained unchanged, except in **Mauritania** were close to 14,000 ha were sprayed in December.

Country	Quantities in l/kg@
Algeria	1,800,000**
Burkina Faso	0.00
Cape Verde	0.00
Chad	108,085
Eritrea	44,800
Ethiopia	12,300~
Gambia, Libya*	??
Mali	230,000
Mauritania	490,000+
Morocco	4,107,300
Niger	69,000
Saudi Arabia*	??
Senegal	519,000
Sudan	735,676
Tunisia*	167,600*
Yemen*	??
some of these pesticide have expired or will soon expire	
Current data not available at the time this report was compiled	
+ Mauritania donated 70,000 litres to Yemen in July 2007	
** Inventory expected to be updated	
~ this represents only DL stock	

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or visit us at:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/